

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08

FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-15 TRSE-00 XMB-04

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AGRE-00 /079 W

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R 120410Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY SUVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6014

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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DEPT PASS ALL ACP AND EC POSTS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, EAID, EEC, FJ

SUBJECT: FIJI PM ADDRESSES ACP COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING

1. RATU SIR KAMISESE MARA, PRIME MINISTER OF FIJI AND PRESIDENT OF THE ACP COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, ADDRESSED THE FIRST ACP MINISTERIAL SESSION APRIL 11 AND QUICKLY SET THE TONE OF THE ACP APPROACH TO THE MEETINGS BY ACCUSING THE EEC OF NEGLECTING ITS THIRD WORLD PARTNERS. HE SAID THERE COULD BE NO JUSTIFICATION FOR THE EEC'S NEGLECT OF THE ACP COUNTRIES EVEN THROUGH INFLATION AND UNEMPLOYMENT WERE AFFECTING THE COMMUNITY. HE ALSO CRITICIZED THE EEC FOR DELAYS AND DISCOURAGING ATTITUDES TOWARD TRADE NEGOTIATIONS.

2. RATU MARA SAID "EUROPE SEEMED TO HAVE TURNED IN UPON ITSELF" DURING THE RECENT ECONOMIC CRISIS, AND SAID HE DETECTED AN "UNYIELDING AND UNGENEROUS ATTITUDE ON THE PART OF THE COMMUNITY." HE SAID THIS EXPERIENCE SHOULD BE A SALUTARY LESSON FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO DEVELOP
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INCREASED SELF-RELIANCE.

3. HE RAISED THE PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN NEGOTIATING TRADE AGREEMENTS OVER SUGAR AND BEEF. THE PRIME MINISTER ASSERTED THE EEC HAD OFFERED AN UNACCEPTABLE SUGAR PRICE WHILE THE ACP COUNTRIES HAD UNDERSTOOD THE PRICE FOR THEIR SUGAR WOULD BE AT LEAST EQUAL TO THE PRICE FOR RAW BEET

SUGAR IN THE COMMUNITY. HE SAID IT WAS THE ACP'S TASK TO "REMIND THE EEC OF THE OBLIGATIONS AND SPECIAL RELATIONSHIPS INVOLVED IN THE LOME CONVENTION NOW THAT THE ECONOMIC SITUATION HAD IMPROVED."

4. RATU MARA WARNED HIS ACP COLLEAGUES THAT IF ACP EFFORTS WERE TO BE SUCCESSFUL, THEY HAD TO BE BASED ON PRACTICAL AND HARD-HEADED CONSIDERATIONS AND NOT SENTIMENTALITY AND IDEOLOGY. HE ASKED THE MEETING TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING:

(A) MEANS OF FACILITATING THE EXPLOITATION OF TRADE OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE IN THE EEC AND WITHIN THE ACP;

(B) JOINT EFFORTS IN AGRICULTURE MARKETING AND IN COORDINATING MARKETING POLICY;

(C) THE ESTABLISHMENT OF JOINT BUSINESS ENTERPRISES WHICH WOULD USE COMPLEMENTARY RESOURCES IN DIFFERENT ACP COUNTRIES;

(D) MEANS OF MAXIMIZING UTILIZATION OF THE CUMULATIVE RULES OF ORIGIN PROVIDED BY THE CONVENTION;

(E) COORDINATING RESEARCH EFFORTS;

(F) JOINT EFFORTS TO EXPLOIT THE FISHERY RESOURCES OF INLAND LAKES AND THE ENLARGED MARINE ZONES NOW COMING UNDER THE ECONOMIC JURISDICTION OF STATES; AND
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(G) FACILITATING CULTURAL EXCHANGES.

5. THE ACP COUNCIL OF MINISTERS SPENT THE REST OF THE DAY IN CLOSED DOOR SESSIONS, WHICH ARE TO BE CONTINUED ON APRIL 12. WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY, APRIL 13 AND 14, HAVE BEEN SCHEDULED FOR JOINT COUNCIL SESSIONS BETWEEN THE EEC AND ACP, WITH CLOSING CEREMONIES ON FRIDAY, APRIL 15.

6. FIRM DETAILS REGARDING PROCEEDINGS WERE SLOW IN COMING BECAUSE OF THE UNCERTAINTY LATE LAST WEEK OVER WHETHER RATU MARA WOULD BE CHAIRING THE ACP SESSIONS. HIS ALLIANCE PARTY LOST ITS MAJORITY IN FIJI'S RECENT PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS, BUT RATU MARA WAS NEVERTHELESS REAPPOINTED PRIME MINISTER OF A MINORITY GOVERNMENT ON APRIL 7. THERE WAS ALSO A DELAY IN THE ARRIVAL OF DELEGATES IN SUVA, WITH SOME NOT APPEARING IN FIJI UNTIL TODAY.
FLANEGIN

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEES.

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